

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for enhancing compound/drug penetration into hair follicles on body areas of animals and humans, comprising the steps of:

- a. simultaneously applying topically said compound/drug and a swellable composition to said body areas with an ~~intact~~ stratum corneum;
- b. allowing said composition to penetrate into said hair follicles; and
- c. volume swelling said swellable composition, wherein internal forces are generated by said swellable composition at said hair follicles during and after said volume swelling of said composition to open said hair follicle and prevent collapse of said follicle during release of said compound/drug.

Claim 2 (currently amended): ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein said swellable composition includes a compound/drug.

Claims 3-4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein said swelling enlarges a depth of an inner lumen space of said hair follicles.

Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein said method further comprises ~~ing~~ a pretreatment step of:

removing hair from said hair follicles.

Claim 7 (currently amended): ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein said method further comprises ~~ing~~ a pretreatment step of:

cutting external hairs.

Claim 8 (currently amended): ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein said applying topically includes massaging said swellable composition into said body area having hair follicles.

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~A~~The method according to claim 1, further comprising another step after step c: occluding said hair follicles.

Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~A~~The method according to claim 1, wherein said compounds/drugs are molecules and their derivatives used in cosmetic/pharmaceutical applications.

Claim 11 (currently amended): ~~A~~The method according to claim 1, wherein said compounds/drugs are photosensitizer molecules, their derivatives and their precursors used in photodynamic therapy.

Claim 12 (currently amended): ~~A~~The method according to claim 1, wherein said swellable composition is cosmetically/pharmaceutically acceptable.

Claim 13 (currently amended) ~~A~~The method according to claim 1, wherein said swellable composition are polymers.

Claim 14 (currently amended): ~~A~~The method according to claim 13, wherein said polymers are biodegradable.

Claim 15 (currently amended): ~~A~~The method according to claim 13, wherein said polymers are biologically active.

Claim 16 (currently amended): ~~A~~The method according to claim 13, wherein said polymers are encapsulated.

Claim 17 (currently amended): ~~A~~The method according to claim 13, wherein said polymers are structures in a form of microspheres.

Claim 18 (currently amended): ~~A~~The method according to claim 13, wherein said polymers are encapsulated in liposomes.

Claim 19 (currently amended): ~~A~~The method according to claim 1, wherein said swelling composition is covered during said volume swelling, and whereby horizontal swelling of said swelling composition is favored against vertical swelling.

Claim 20 (currently amended): ~~A~~The method according to claim 19, wherein said swelling composition is covered by a cover selected from a group consisting of a plate, a film and a dressing.